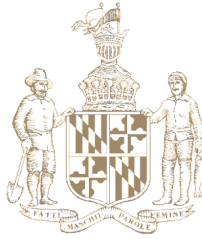**JHEANELLE WILKINS**
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

———

PARLIAMENTARIAN

———

Ways and Means Committee

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 350
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3493 · 301-858-3493
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3493
Fax 410-841-3445 · 301-858-3445
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2022

House Bill 670 - Maryland Health Care Commission – Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 670 - Maryland Health Care Commission – Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth**, which would require the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with certain State agencies and stakeholders, to study ways that interstate telehealth can be expanded.

As we have seen in the pandemic, telehealth has proven to be beneficial for citizen's safety, and increased use of telehealth in the past few years has been essential. As you know, Gov. Hogan allowed usage of interstate telehealth for a period of time during the pandemic via executive order, and many residents were able to take advantage of this benefit. When this order expired, several constituents reached out to me about continuing this critical access to health care.

For the second straight month, national telehealth utilization, measured as a percentage of all medical claim lines, grew by about two percent. Telehealth utilization rose nationally in September by 2.3 percent, increasing from 4.3 percent of medical claim lines in August to 4.4 percent in September, following a national rise of 2.4 percent in August. Telehealth utilization also grew in September in the Midwest and West, though there was no change in the South and a decrease in the Northeast.

Telehealth has proven to be an integral component of our state, and that is why I urge the committee to ensure that we study increased access to interstate telehealth. Please give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 670 - Maryland Health Care Commission – Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth.**

Sincerely,

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins